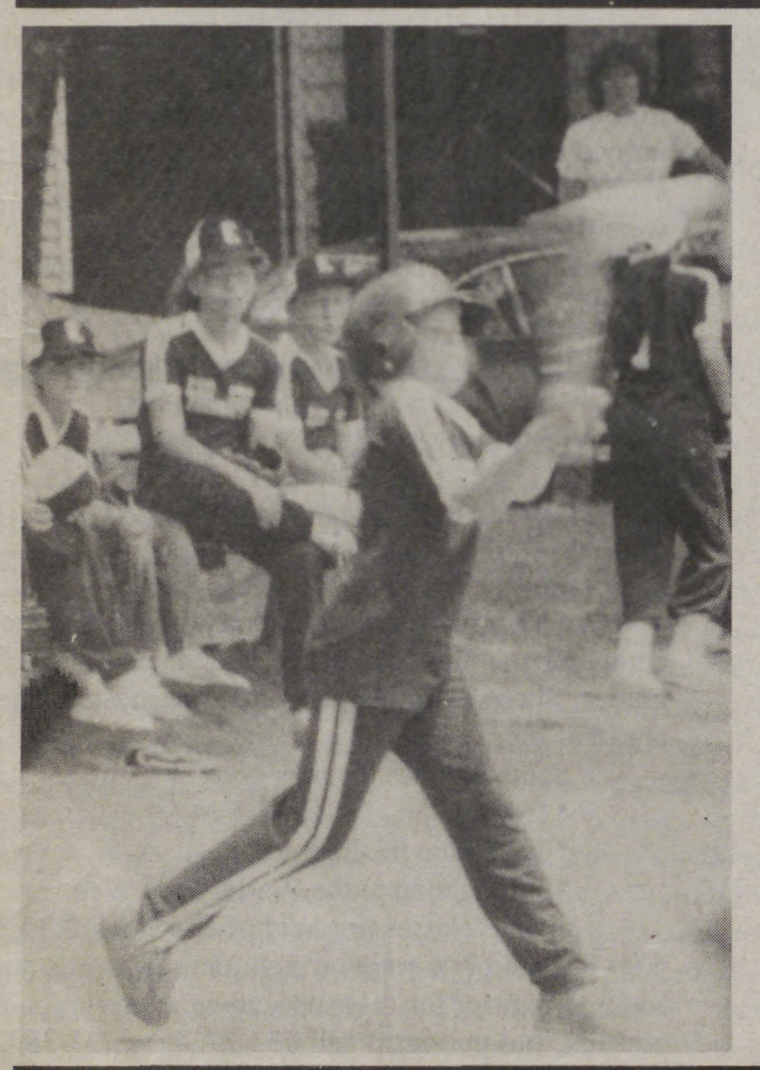
FREE GRATIS

TRI-LINGUAL

IRONBOUND VOICES

Vol. 22 No. 3 Fall 1999



Inside This Issue:



Ironbound children help set up a table for ICC at the Ironbound Fall Festival at Independence Park.

ICC Begins New Program

The Ironbound Community Corporation supported by the New Jersey Department of Human Services and the United Way, is developing a new initiative to address the needs of children under the age fo 6 and their families.

The FACES/Success by Six Program will offer programs in Parenting Education, Family Literacy, Childrens' Asthma, and Health Care. It will also offer a resource center for staff and parents of preschool children. St. James Hospital and the Newark Literacy Campaign will assist ICC with its new service. FACES stands for Families and Children Early Education Services.

Services are available to all day care centers, PTA's, and other community groups. For more information call 465-0555.

On the cover: Maryann Abasto (formerly Maryann Schreiner) swings a bat in 1984. Now, in 1999, Maryann coaches the Red Sox for the Ironbound Little League, which celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year. *See story on page 8.*

Citizens Get Results on Lead

Because of an outcry from citizens and groups in Newark, the City Council has added money into its budget to hire more inspectors for lead poisoning in children. Since January of 1999, Newark has had only one inspector. Newark has the highest number of childhood lead poisoning cases in the state. State law requires that cities inspect the homes of children with elevated lead levels.

Newark, a city with roughly 90,000 occupied residents, "there's obviously no way in the world that one inspector could do it," said Dr. Steve Marcus, head of the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System.

A write-in, call-in campaign, organized by New Jersey Citizen Action, was successful in getting the City Council to amend its budget, and add funds for more inspectors. Thanks to all those groups and individuals who wrote letters to their Councilpersons about this issue. Among the groups who took action were: Ironbound Community Corporation's Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies Program, St. Stephan's United Church of Christ, and the Newark HUD Tenants' Coalition.

NEON Center at Library Begins Computer Courses

The Van Buren St. Library is offering free computer training courses for students in 6th to 12th grades. Space is limited, and students must register ahead of time.

Sample topics include:

* E-Mail
* Exploring the Internet
* Introduction to the World Wide Web.

Some classes are held after school, 3:30 to 5:00 PM, and some are on Saturdays. There is still room to register for these special computer training sessions, but you must call 733-7750, or 733-3897, and fill out a registration form.

ICC Celebrates 30 Years:
What People Working Together Can Accomplish



The Ironbound Community Corporation celebrated its 30th Anniversary on October 8, 1999 at a Dinner Dance at the Mediterranean Manor. Community residents, ICC staff members both present and past, friends and supporters from through the years shared many stories and memories. ICC began in 1969, with Ironbound parents who wanted to start a daycare center, where their children could stay while they went to work. It wasn't easy. There were meetings, letters, marches, and more meetings. But in August of 1969, ICC opened one of the first private day care centers in the state, run by parents. From this experience, people learned that by organizing and working hard they could make choices and changes to improve their lives.

In September 1971, ICC opened a K through 2nd grade school for 20 students. Eventually the Ironbound Community School became a K to 8th grade. The health of their children was a main concern of parents and teachers, and in 1975, ICC started the Ironbound Community Health Project. Older community residents had their dreams too, and in 1976, ICC began a program for senior citizens, which has continued to expand., with Meals on Wheels, Home Friends and Senior Ride. In 1977, the Ironbound Information Center opened at 95 Fleming Ave, a place for residents to find out their legal rights, and get help in organizing to solve a neighborhood problems. The Adult Education Program , with Essex County College began in 1978. In 1980, Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste, began, and led successful fights to clean up toxic chemicals in the neighborhood. To share the success stories with others, the tri-lingual newspaper Ironbound Voices was born. Since that time, other programs have been started, like the Ironbound Afterschool, Summer Arts, Asthma Busters, Immigration Program., and others. New organizing efforts have been successful because of the hard work and effort of hundreds of people. When people work together, they can accomplish almost anything. It's something to remember and be proud of.

The photograph above, shows the honorees, and some of the honored guests (from left to right): Joseph Della Fave, Director of the ICC, Rosa Conceicao, Joseph Rendeiro, June Kruszewski, Paulo Pocinho, Portuguese General Consul, Congressman Bob Menendez, Ed Norton, Pat Moreira, Fred Linhares, and Councilman Augusto Amador. Dr. Raymond Lindgren, Assistant Executive Superintendent of Schools (and proud uncle to honoree Ed Norton) was also present. For more information about the Ironbound Community Corporation, its history, or its programs, call 589-3353. (Photograph courtesy of Luso American).

Ironbound Residents Win Fuel Tank Fight!

Hard work by residents of Ironbound paid off when City officials decided to find another spot to install two fuel tanks holding thousands of gallons of gasoline, instead of putting them at the firehouse at Chestnut St. and Elm Rd.

"The success of this campaign proves again that unless people demand to be heard, nothing gets done," said David Schnegelberger, a resident who lives nearby who, along with his wife Florence, led the fight to stop the tanks. "I'm glad that the city leaders made a decision to find another site, thereby preventing an unsafe condition, traffic problems, and the unsightly and unsafe presence of gasoline storage tanks in a quiet residential area."

The City planned to install the tanks so that firetrucks, city trucks, and police cars from all over the city could fill up with gas. The City said "that's the only place for the tanks", according to a Star Ledger article of July 7, 1999.

But Ironbound residents had other ideas. They circulated petitions, made phone calls, hung up fliers, and talked to their neighbors. Hundreds of names were gathered. The Ironbound Little League, whose children play in the Chestnut St. Field across the street, also got involved in the fight, circulated the petitions, and urged its members to get active. Mr. Schnegelberger wrote letters to the Mayor and every Councilman, explaining the issue. Councilman Booker, Councilman Amador, and Councilwoman Walker responded by saying that they supported the residents.

The Ironbound Block Watch offered to let their August 5 meeting at the Azores Club be on this topic. Mr.and Mrs. Schnegelberger proceeded to organize residents, and over 90 people showed up. Howard Lazarus, Director of Engineering, attended for the City of Newark. When Mr. Schnegelberger ended his speech by asking how many people opposed the proposed tanks, everyone in the room stood up.



David & Florence Schnegelberger led a successful fight to keep gasoline tanks from being built in the Ironbound.

"They say you can't fight City Hall, but I say you can - if you get enough people to join you," said Mr. Schnegelberger. "I want to thank all of the residents who took the time to circulate the petitions, sign them, make calls, and attend the meeting. Because of you, we will not have the unsafe installation of those large fuel tanks in our residential area."

Both Schnegelbergers are active member of **SPARK, Save The Park At RiverbanK,** the group which led the successful fight to save Riverbank Park.

Ironbound To Get More NYC Garbage

2/3 of What Is Burned Will Come From Outside Ironbound

New York City's Sanitation Department has awarded a contract to bring 1700 tons of garbage per day from Manhatten to the garbage incinerator operated by American Ref-Fuel in Ironbound.

The New York City decision will mean 1000 trucks filled with garbage coming into New Jersey, about 700 of those into Newark. The Tri-State Transportation Campaign, a consumers group on transportation issues, is opposing New York's decision, saying it would double the amount of garbage trucks currently bringing New York City garbage to the incinerator.

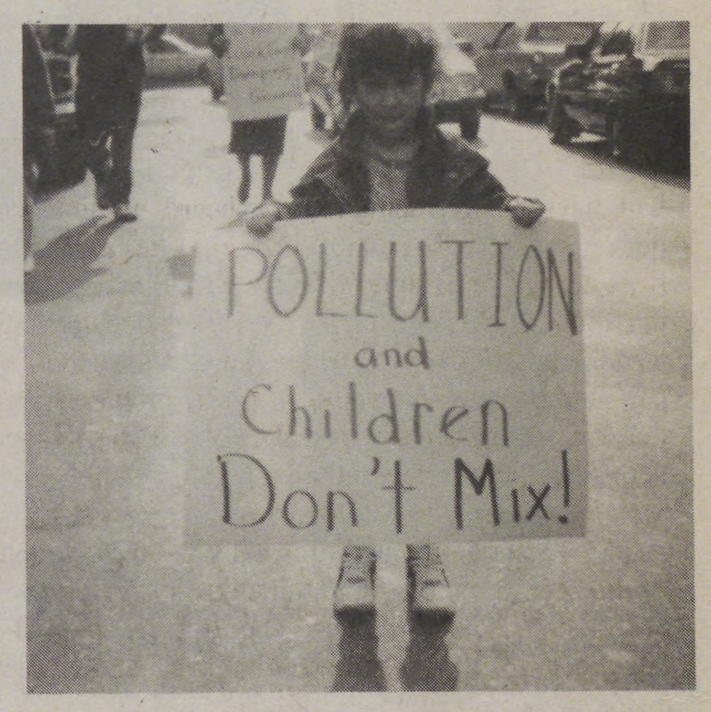
The **Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste** (ICATW) opposes importing additional garbage from New York City, and is calling for the closing of the incinerator.

Elected officials such as the Mayor Sharpe James, and the mayors of neighboring towns, Jersey City Mayor Schundler, Elizabeth Mayor Bollwage, and other local politicians have stated that they are against bringing garbage from New York City.

"Ironbound already has more than its share of negatives from the incinerator," said Arnold Cohen, from the Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste "We have all the risks of accidents, all the burden of pollution caused by this incinerator, and nothing in return."

Accidents & Pollution

The incinerator at Avenue A accident in December of 1998, which sent 40 people to the hospital. Drano powder which was mixed with water on the floor of the incinerator caused a fire. The Drano powder came from Wisconsin. It was accepted under what is called "special waste" at the incinerator. The documents which are supposed to come with the load to tell what safety precautions to take were not accurate. The Fire Department was told



was just a garbage fire. "Our firefighters could have died," said a representative from the Firemens' Union.

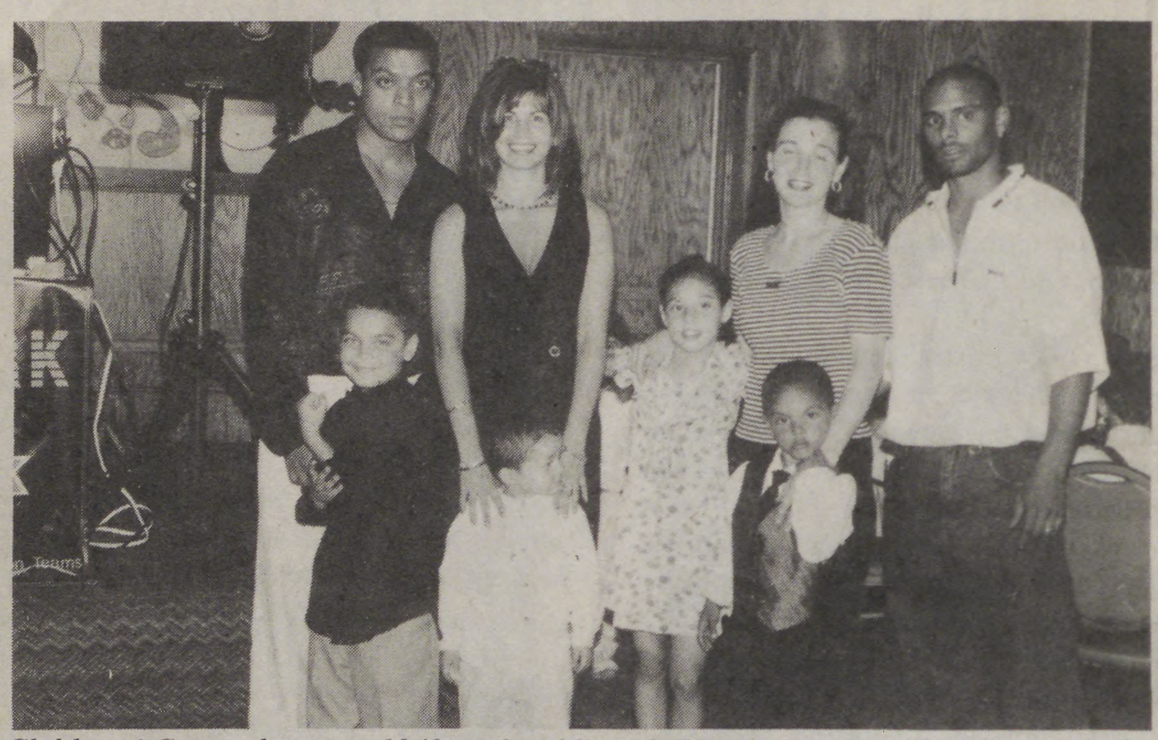
Essex County laid off all 10 of its independent it inspectors who used to watch what happened at the incinerator in 1996.

Incinerators may cause serious health damage. According to information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1998, municipal waste incinerators are the highest source of dioxin emissions in the United States. Dioxin is linked to learning disabilities, cancer and birth defects. according to information from the Environmental Defense Fund, in 1996, American Ref-Fuel produced 1,536 tons of nitrogen oxides

Although federal law requires the incinerator operators to test for emissions, the federal Clean Air act has big loopholes such as the three hour exemption from permit standards during start-up, shut-down, and malfunction, leading to regular

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ICC's Children: Preschool's 30th Anniversary



Ironbound Childrens' Center, begun in 1969, is the oldest of ICC's programs, a daycare center for the children of working parents. Shown above, at the 30th Anniversary Graduation, are graduates of the Childrens Center, who now have children of their own in the program. From left to right, they are: (top) Willy Polanco, Raquel Cagley, Sara Pinho, and Wilson Calderon. (Bottom): Willy and Nicholas Polanco, Alyssa and Wilson Calderon..

Oliver St. School Band Marching With Pride At Pride Bowl



Oliver St. School was chosen as the "Best Marching Contingent" at a parade held at the Project Pride's footballg game on October 17, 1999. The band played a rousing version of "We will rock you."Congratulations to all the members of the Oliver St. School Band.

Where Will Ironbound Children Go To School?

The School Board says that all of Ironbound's schools are overcrowded, some by as much as 200%, and that new schools must be built, but where will they be built? Development has occurred so rapidly in Ironbound that all available vacant and underutilized land is disappearing.

In the last few years, nearly 1000 new residential units have been built or approved in Ironbound, generating an estimated 2000 new children. All the public elementary schools are overcrowded. The average overcrowding is nearly 70%.

"It is terrible. There are so many children in classrooms that your child cannot get the attention they should, no matter how good the teacher is," said one parent, Lidia Rossi.

"A community is not just homes. It has to have schools, churches, businesses, and parks in order to be a place where people want to live and raise their families."

"The picture is even worse than it seems, because the School Board's projections for school enrollment did not include all the private home construction," said Martha Lamar, a planner working with the Ironbound Community Corporation, who is assisting the community with research on this issue.

The School Board Facilities Plan calls for two new middle schools, and a new high school, to be built in Ironbound. The Board consultants have some ideas for sites, but nothing definite. The School Board has been asking the City of Newark for locations where they can build schools. However, some of these locations are already built on, and others are already being sold or given to private developers.

In meetings with City residents who asked about this issue, Mayor Sharpe James said finding places for schools was "the Governor's problem". Newark's School system has been taken over by the State of New Jersey. The City is concentrating on building new residential homes.

"A community is not just homes. It has to have good schools, churches, businesses, and parks in order to be a place where people want to live and raise their families," said Rev. Weirich, from Lutheran Grace Community.

Meanwhile, the City of Newark is passing new Land Use Maps for its new Masterplan. These maps could hold land from being developed, by showing sites for schools, community facilities and parks. The City is not including these things on its maps, in spite of meetings in which community residents from all parts of the city saying they wanted these important community needs put onto the map.

"The City thinks that it is more profitable for them to build homes, and commercial developments, than to build schools," said Manuel Lavin, from **SPARK (Save the Park At RiverbanK)**.. "But studies have shown that for every $1.00 which is invested in new homes, municiplaities have to pay $1.56 for services - schools, fire prevention, police protection. And families will not stay to raise their children in communities without good schools and parks."

SPARK got the enrollment figures and distributed a flier which shows the overcrowding in the schools. SPARK has been attending School Board Meetings and City Council and Planning Board meetings to speak out about the issues of school overcrowding and overdevelopment in the community.

SPARK meets on most Tuesday evenings, at Wolff Memorial Presbyterian Church Hall, Ann St. & Wilson ave. All are welcome. Call 589-3353 to confirm.

Ironbound Little League Celebrates Its 50th Year!

Baseball Players Become Coaches,

"When you as a parent, get involved in your child's activities, your children will turn around and give back to the community when they become adults."

Maria Durkan was talking about baseball, specifically girls softball. She was talking about girls like her daughter Jennifer, who played baseball in the Ironbound Little League, and was good enough to get high school and college baseball scholarships which helped pay her way through school. Now Jennifer is coaching girls softball teams in Ironbound.

Her mother, Maria, wants more girls to get involved in softball. For the Durkan family, baseball is a family affair. Jennifer's father, Ron, is President of the Girls Softball League, and Maria assists.

"It is such an opportunity for girls, because, in addition to the team work and the discipline of team sports, there are scholarships out there for high school and college for good baseball players."

There are other baseball loving families, where players have become coaches in the Ironbound Little League.

Alice Schreiner got into coaching out of necessity. "I had three daughters, and they could play baseball better than the boys. But at that time, girls weren't allowed to play Little League. Together with other parents, we organized the girls softball teams. Now, girls have a choice to play hardball in Little League, or softball. We have come a long long way. I am proud that I was a part of it."

"My daughters were able to play, and they enjoyed it. They still enjoy it. I think the fact that my daughter (Maryann Abasto) coaching the Red Sox now is wonderful for the community."

Mike Alban, who helped the T-ball league for very young children get off the ground in 1984, and has overseen its operations for many years, has two sons Michael and Matthew who both played in the League who were involved with coaching Little



Jennifer Durkan, an Ironbound resient who got scholarships to high school and college because of her baseball skills, now coaches Girls' Softball Teams.

League Teams (and still occasionally are guest star coaches for Ironbound T-ball team).

Stacey Cabeza, who played Little League herself, is coaching her son's T-ball team. Neil Mitgard, who is currently treasurer of the Little League, played in Little League. He now coaches the Reds. Lisa Adao played in Little League, and now coaches the Red Sox team.

Hundreds of other Ironbound adults have been Little League coaches over the 50 years since the Little League began in 1949.

How It Started

The Ironbound Little League was started by Andrew J. Naparano of Naporano Iron and Metals Co., a company which has its main offices on Hawkins St. (Star Ledger article, 1999).

As a young man, Mr. Naparano loved baseball. "I was addicted to baseball, and so was my brother. Early in the morning we would go out and hit fly balls and grounders. We also played after school."

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Freedom of Speech in Newark:

Where Is Democracy?

Senator Ronald Rice has introduced a bill which would require all cities to allow citizens to speak, on whatever topic they wish, at their City Council meeting. The bill, Senate bill 1805, was heard in the Senate Urban Affairs Committee on Sept. 27, 1999, and was passed. Senator Sharp James (who is also the Mayor of Newark) voted for the bill. The bill must now be passed by the whole Senate, the Assembly, and signed by the Governor. A companion bill has been introduced in the Assembly (A 2368).

Since September 1997, Newark residents have not been able to speak at their own City Council meetings, unless an issue is on the agenda for Second Reading & Final Passage. Most residents have no access to agendas. Many items are added on as "late starters", that is no one sees them until the day of the meeting. Many meetings are held during the day. The only opportunity residents get to speak is in Citizen Hearing meetings which are held infrequently in each ward, and which are not attended by all Council members, and are not official voting meetings. (At the last meeting in the East Ward, only 2 Councilpersons were in attendance).

"Free speech is the foundation on which strong communities are built."

Councilman Cory Booker, who has led efforts to return the right to speak to citizens, has said that "The policy decisions, issues of resource allocation, and other challenging choices facing our City must not be decided in a vacuum by a select few. Instead, citizens should have the right to come before their entire governing body...and air their concerns, share their ideas, or voice their dissent. Such participation is crucial to a vibrant future for our City...As was understood by the Founding Fathers of the United States, and was included in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, free speech is the foundation upon which strong communities are built."



Councilman Cory Booker, with children from the Aspen Riverpark Apartments and the Westfield United Church of Christ at the Aspen Superkids Saturday Program..

Residents of Newark have also been active to get their freedom to speak back. They are circulating a referendum petition. When enough names of registered voters are gathered, the City Council will have to put the right to speak on the ballot, so people can vote on it. The petition can only be signed by registered voters.

Garbage Incinerator

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prolonged exposure to dioxin (and other pollutants) with no consequences (Center for Health, Environment & Justice).

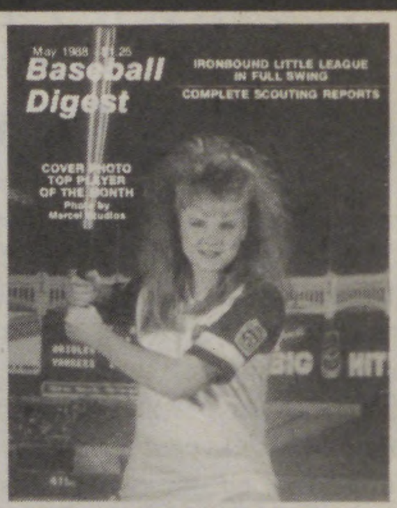
Currently, only one third of the garbage burned at the incinerator is from Essex County. Two thirds is from outside, some from other states, and even from other countries. (ICATW had protested the huge size of the incinerator before it was built, and accurately predicted that it would have to import garbage in order to fill its burners).

Meanwhile, a statewide movement to shut the incinerators, coordinated by the New Jersey Environmental Federation, a statewide environmental organization, is gaining momentum. NJEF has called for a Governor's Blue Ribbon panel to investigate garbage incinerators in New Jersey.

"Garbage incinerators release millions of pounds of carcinogens, heavy metals, acid gases and other toxic air pollution each year," said David Pringle, from the NJEF. "They waste money and resources, and recycling is a better alternative. Rhode Island has already banned incineration and is recycling at a rate of 70%."

Essex County is currently negotiating a new contract with American Ref-Fuel, and residents of Montclair have organized to fight it. They have gathered hundreds of names on petitions, spoken at meetings, and taken out full page ads in local newspapers. "As the contract is now written, costs could either triple, or double, at the end of ten years," said Therese Langer, from the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic. "I do not want us to have to pay a charge if we increase our recycling," said Montclair Councilman Robert Russo.

The Newark City Council also must vote on this contract. Call your Councilman for information on when it is scheduled to be before the Council. For more information, and how you can get involved, contact Evin Aksay, at 589-3353.



Maryann Abasto in 1988, Top Player of the Month., now coaches the Red Sox.

Players Become Coaches

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When he married and moved to Nutley, Mr. Naparano continued to think about baseball and Ironbound. "I couldn't understand why the kids in Nutley where my two sons played, had Little League, but there were no teams in Ironbound." With help, Mr. Naparano began the Little League, and his business has been sponsoring teams ever since.

Ironbound Little League continues to grow. The number of players, ranging from 6 to 15 years old, has doubled in the last 25 years, to 420. Little League has expanded to include a Farm League, girls' softball, Peewees, and, the youngest players who start with T-ball.

The Ironbound's current Little League President is Joe Calello. "Little League provides a great opportunity for kids to get together and offers children from various backgrounds a chance to interact with others," Calello said recently. "It builds team work and friendships."

Congratulations Little League on your 50 Years, and thank you to all the parents, players, and coaches who make it possible!

Neighborhood Updates

City Ignores Resident Input For New Master Plan

The City of Newark has ignored most of the comments of residents about the new Land Use Maps it is preparing to adopt as part of the new city Masterplan. The Land Use Maps describe the city's goals for what will be encouraged, and allowed, to be built in a neighborhood in the future.

Because residents and groups around the city pushed for input from residents, the City agreed to let non-profit groups, like ICC, sponsor a meeting in each ward to get comments from people who live there about the new Land Use Maps. In the East Ward, residents attended the East Ward meeting at Club Orensano sponsored by the Ironbound Community Corporation ICC last spring. Residents gave the City's development team detailed comments on the proposed new maps.

The biggest concern for Ironbound residents was specifying land on the maps for parks and schools. Land that is marked on the maps cannot be developed. "As of this moment, no land for schools or parks has been marked on the maps ," said Nancy Zak. "The City says they will add that on later. By the time they do it, available land in Ironbound will be gone."

Ironbound residents also looked at proposed zoning designations. Zoning designations - residential, business, industrial - map out what will be built in an area in the future.

"Not only were residents suggestions not taken, but City's development department then changed the definitions for what the designations meant," said one person.

Ironbound residents have disagreed with one zoning designation, M1, because it is too vague. "It is a new designation, it covers a lot of Ironbound, and it is sort of an anything goes category. The way it is it allows everything to be built. It won't be good for our neighborhood," said another resident.

The new Land Use Maps (the first piece of the Masterplan) have to be voted on at the Central Planning Board and the City Council..

Ironbound Community Corporation, in cooperation with other resident groups, continues to work on community planning issues. For more information about when those community planning meetings will be, or when and where the new Land Use Maps will be voted on, call 589-3353.

Riverbank Park Update

The work at Riverbank Park began on May 21, 1999. Work on the fields will be completed bythe spring, but the structures will take longer. **SPARK (Save The Park At RiverbanK)** is continuing to work closely to make closely with Essex County to make sure the job is completed, and is forming Friends of Riverbank Park to help maintain the park once it is completed. SPARK is also working on a slideshow and other projects with the local schools which will educate young people about Riverbank, the remediation work going on at the park, and the history and the civics of saving the park.

Other Recreation Sites

* Construction has started on the B Field at the Ironbound Stadium complex. The City ordered that soil tests be done to make certain that clean soil was being used. The field should be ready for play this coming spring.

* Essex County has approved $1.5 million to make repairs and improvements at Independence Park. The plan, which was published, in the Luso American, calls for adding a volleyball court, a new soccer field for children, roller hockey rink, new basketball court. According to the article, Councilman Amador said the work would begin in March 2000, and be completed by the summer.

Ironbound Recibira Mas Basura de NYC

2/3 de lo que sera quemado vendra de afuera de Ironbound

El Departamento de Sanidad de la Ciudad de Nueva York ha dado un contrato para traer 1700 toneladas de basura por dia de Manhattan al incinerador operado por American Ref-Fuel en Ironbound.

La decision de la Ciudad de Nueva York quiere decir que 1000 camiones llenos de basura vendran a New Jersey. De esos camiones, como 700 vendran a Newark. El grupo de consumidores de asuntos de transportacion llamoado Tri-State Transportation Campaign, esta opuesto a la decision de Nueva York. Ellos dicen que doblera el numero de camiones de basura que traira basura de la Ciudad de Nueva York al incinerador.

El **Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste** (ICATW) esta opuesto al importancia de basura adicional de la Ciudad de Nueva York y esta llamando para la clausura del incinerador.

Oficiales elegidos como el Alcalde Sharpe James y los alcaldes de ciudades alrededor de Newark como el Alcalde Schundler de Jersey City y el Alcalde Bullwage de Elizabeth y otros politicos locales han dicho que estan en contra de traer basura de a la ciudad de New York.

"Ironbound ya tiene mas de su parte de negativos del incinerador," dijo Arnold Cohen del Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste (ICATW). "Nosotros tenemos todos los riesgos de accidentes, toda la carga de polucion causado por el incinerador y nada de regreso."

El acidente del incinerador que ocurrio en la Avenida A en Diciembre de 1998 que mando a 40 personas al hospital. Polvo de Drano que fue mezclado con agua en el piso del incinerador causo fuego. El polvo de Drano vino de Wisconsin! Fue aceptado por lo que llaman " gasto especial" en el incinerador. Los documentos que deben venir con el cargo para decir cuales precauciones de seguridad se deben de tomar no dieron la informacion correctamente. Le dijieron al Departametno de Bomberos que fue un fuego causado por basura. "Nuestros bomberos podian haber muerto," dijo un representante del Sindicato de Bomberos.

En 1996, el Condado de Essex despidieron por falta de trabajo a todos de los inspectores independientes que antes observavan lo que pasaba en el incinerador.

Incineradores pueden causar daño serriode salud. Segun la información de 1998 del Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) de los Estados Unidos, incineradores de gasto municipal son los fuentes mas altos de emisión en los Estados Unidos. Dioxin es vinculado a disabilidad de aprendizaje, el cancer y defectos de nacimiento. Segun la información del Environmental Defense Fund en 1996, American Ref-Fuel produjo 1,536 toneladas de oxidos nitrógen.

Aunque la ley federal requiere que los operadores de los incinerados examinen los emisiones, el acto federal Clean Air tiene varias fisuras legales como la extención de tres horas del nivel de permiso durante el empiezo, el paro y el malfuncionamiento que resulta en el prolongamento regular de exposición de dioxin (y otros tipos de contaminación) sin alguna consequencia (Center for Health, Environment and Justice).

Actualmente, solamente un tercero de la basura quemada por el incinerador es de el Condado Essex. Dos terceras son de afuera y algunas de otros estados y hasta de otros paises. (ICATW protesto el gran tam_año del incinerador antes de que fue construido y correctamente hizo la predicción que tendría que importar basura para poder llenar sus quemadores).

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¿A Que Escuela Iran Los Niños Del Ironbound?

Las escuelas estan repletas. Como media pasan, del 70% del cupo.

La Junta de Educación dicer que todas las escuelas del Ironbound pasan de su cupo, algunas pasan hasta por el 200% y que escuelas nuevas deben de construirse, pero ¿donde se construirán? Crecimiento ha ocurrido tan rápidamente en el Ironbound que toda la tierra vacante y sin utilizar está desapareciendo.

En los últimos años, casi 1000 unidades residenciales se han construido o aprobado para construir en el Ironbound, generando un estimado de 2000 niños. Todas las escuelas públicas están sobre-repletas.

"Esto es horroroso. Hay tantos niños no pueden recibir la atención que deberían, por muy buena que sea la maestra," dijo Lidia Rossi, una madre.

"En realidad es peor que lo que parece, porque los números proyectados por la Junta de Educación no tuvieron en cuenta toda la construcción nueva que se está llevando a cabo," dijo Martha Lamar, una proyectista profesional que trabaja con el Ironbound Community Corporation y que está asistiendo a la comunidad en el estudio de este problema.

El Plan de Facilidades de la Junta de Educación pide que se construyan dos escuelas intermedias nuevas asi como una escuela superior. Los consejeros de la Junta tienen ciertas ideas a cerca de los lugares, pero nada en definitivo. La Junta de Educación le ha pedido a la ciudad de Newark lugares en los que se puedan edificar escuelas. No obstante, algunos de estos lugares están ya vendiendo o donando a firmas de construccion privadas.

En las reuniones que los residentes hicieron preguntas sobre este tema, el Alcalde Sharpe James dioj que el encontrar lugares para estas escuelas era "el problema de la Governadora." El sistema de escuelas de Newark está en posesion del estado de New Jersey. La ciudad se preocupa ahora de edificar casas residenciales solamente.

"Una comunidad no es solo casas. Tiene que tener escuelas, iglesias, negocios y parques para que pueda ser un sitio donde la gente pueda vivir y criar a sus familias," dijo el Reverendo Weirich, de la Comunidad Luterana Grace.

Mientras tanto, la ciudad de Newark está aprobando los Mapas nuevos para el Uso de Terreno en su Masterplan. Estos mapas podrían reservar terrenos para que no se edifiquen, mostrando lugares reservados para escuelas, para la comunidad y para parques. La ciudad no está incluyendo esto sitios en sus mapas, aunque en las reuniones en lás que los residentes de todas las partes de la ciudad han asistido, han dicho que querían que estos sitios, tan necesarios se pongan en el mapa.

"La ciudad opina que es mas lucrativopara ellos el edificar casas y edificios de comercio que edificar escuelas," dijo Manuel Lavin de SPARK. "Pero los estudios demuestran que por cada $1.00 que se invierte en casas nuevas, las ciudades paga $1.56 por servicios de: escuelas, prevención de incendios y protección de la policia. Y las familias no permaneceran para criar a sus hijos en las comunidades sin escuelas buenas y sin parques."

El grupo **SPARK (Save The Park At RiverbanK)** esta asistiendo a reuniones de la Junta de Educación y del City Council (Concejales) y de la Junta de Proyectos (Planning) para enfatizar sobre estos temas de las escuelas sobre repletas y de como se está sobre edificando en esta comunidad. SPARK se reune casi todos los martes a las 7 de la noche, en la iglesia Presbiteriana Wolff Memorial, en Ann St. & Wilson Ave.

Los Residentes Del Ironbound Ganan La Batalla Encontra Los Tanques De Gas

El trabajo fuerte de los residentes del Ironbound pago cuando los oficiales de la ciudad identifico otro lugar para estos tanques en vez de usar la casa de Bomberos en Elm y Chetsnut St. Estos dos tanques seran llevados por milles de galones de gasolina.

"El suceso de esta campaña es otra prueba que si las personas exigen ser escuchadas las cosas se hacen,' dijo David Schnegelberger, un residente que vive cerca y encabezo la batalla encontra los tanques. "Estoy contento que los oficiales de la ciudad encontraron otro lugar para esta situación asi preveniendo una condición peligrosa, problemas de trafico y la presencia de tanques de gasolina en una comunidad residencial"

La ciudad planifico instalar los tanques para que asi los bomberos los caminoes de la ciudad y la policia de tala la ciudad pudiesa llenar sus vehiculos. La ciudad dijo, "ese es el unico lugar para los tanques," acordando con un articulo publicado el 7 de Julio del 1999 en el Star Ledger.

Pero los residentes del Ironbound tenian otras ideas. Ellos circularon peticiones, hicieron llamadas, repartieron información y hablaron con todos los vecinos.Cientos de firmas fueron tomadas. Todos los padres de la Little League que juegan al cruzar la calle en Chestnut St. tambien se unieron en la batalla, ellos buscaron firmas y trajeron personas para que fuezen activas en la batalla.

Mr. Schnegelberger escribió cartas al governador, a cada consejal, explicando nuestra situación. El Consejal Booker, Amador yl Walker respondieron y dijeron que ellos iban a soportar a los residentes.

El Ironbound Block Watch ofrecio que la reunión de Augusto 5 en el Club Azores cubriera este topico. Mr. Schnegelberger procedio para organizar a los residentes y sobre 90 personas vinieron a la reunión. Howard Lazarus, Director de Ingeneria, represento la ciudad de Newark. Cuando Mr. Schnegelberger terminó su presentación preguntando cuantas personas se oponen a esta decisión y todos los que atendieron se pusieron de pies, 100% de las personas se oponen a la decision de taer los tanques.

"Ellos dicen tu no puedes pelear con el City Hall, pero tu puedes si tu conseques mucha gente que este de tu parte," dijo Mr. Schnegelberger, un miembro de **SPARK, Save the Park at RiverbanK**.

"Yo quiere dar gracias a todos los residentes que dos dieron tiempo y circularon peticiones, las firmaron, hicieron llamadas y asistieron a todos las reuniones. Por ustedes nosotros no vamos a tener una condición peligrosa ni estos tanques en nuestra comunidad residencial."

Basura

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Mientros tanto, un movimiento estatal para de cerrar los incineradores, cordinado por el New Jersey Environmental Federation, una organización estatal de medio ambiente, esta incrementando el impulso. NJEF ha llamado para que el panel del Gobernador Blue Ribbon innrstigue los incinerador de basura de New Jersey.

"Incineradores de basura emiten millones de toneladas de carcinogenos, metalos pesados, gases de acido y otras clases de contaminación toxicas en el aire cada año," dijo David Pringle de parte del NJEF. "Ellos gastan dinero y recursos y reciclaje es una alternativa mejor. En Rhode Island ya prohibieran incineradores y esta reciclando aun nivel de 70%."

El Consejo Municipal de Newark tiene que votar sobre un nuevo contrato con American Ref-Fuel. Para mas información y como puede involverarse llame a Evin Aksay al 589-3353.

Libertad de Expresión en Newark: Residentes Piden La Palabra

El Senador Estatal Ronald Rice ha presentado una propuesta de ley ante el Senado de New Jersey para exigir que los municipios del estado permiten a sus residentes hablar ante las sessiones de concejos municipales, para expresarse sobre qualquier tema que consideren relevante.

El Comite Sobre Asuntos Urbanos de la Cámara superior celebró audiencias sobre la propuesta, que luego aprobó. El Senador Sharpe James (tambien alcalde de Newark) votó a favor de la propuesta. Para entrar en vigencia, la propuesta necesita la aprobación del Senado entero, luego la de la Asamblea, y finalmente, la firma de la Gobernadora.

Desde Septiembre de 1997, los residentes de Newark no tienen derecho al uso de la palabra en las sesiones del Concejo Municipal a menos que deseen comentar sobre un tema que esté contemplado en la agenda para Segunda Lectura u Votación Final. La gran mayoria de los residentes no tienen aceso a la agenda de las sesiones. Además muchos piuntos son agregados hasta el último momento, de manera que nadie se entera de los asuntos que el Concejo pueda ver en alguna sesión. Las sesiones se realizan durante el dia, en horas laboralbes. Las únicas opportunidades que tienen los residentes para hablar ante sus representantes son las llamadas Audiencias Ciudadanas, éstas se celebran poco frequencia, en los distintos barrios, pero no todos los concejales están presentes, y no constituyen sesiones oficiales de debate y votación.

El Concejal Cory Booker encabeza la campaña de devolver a la ciudadania el dercho a la palabra comenta: "La decisiones políticos, los debates sobre la distribución de recursos, las dificiles opciones que enfrenta nuestra ciudad, no las debemos de decidir aisladamente unos pocos. Al contrario los residentes deberian de goazar del derecho de parecer ante el organismo legislativo en su totalidad, para expresar a sus inquietudes, compartir sus ideas u dar voz a su desacuerdo. Tal participación es imprescindible para lograr un futuro dinámico para nuestra ciudad. Asi como entendieron los próceres de nuestra reuplica, y contemplaron en la Primera Enmienda de la Constitución de ella, la libertad de expresión es la fundación sobre la cual se construyen las comunidades fuertes.

Tambien los residentes de Newark se movilizan para logar sus derechos, montando una campaña de peticiones para un plebescito. Cuando se consigan suficientes firmantes entre los votantes empadronados en la ciudad, el Concejo podria incluir tal referendum en la boleta de las elecciones municipales.

Ciudadaños Recibir Resultado Sobre Plomo

Porque el grito de ciudadaños y grupos de Newark, el ciudad concejal sumar dinero dentro de presupuesto para dar empleo a mas inspectores, para plomo de veneno en niños. Desde Enero de 1999, Newark solamente empleo una inspector. Newark tienes el altar mayor de numero caso de niños con plomo veneno en le estado. Estado derecho requerir que ciudad inspeccionar cada casa de niño con elevar llano de plomo. Newark, un ciudad con aproximadamente 90,000 residentes. "No es posible que un inspector puede haselo solo," dice Dr. Steve Marcus, dilrector de New Jersey Veneno Información y Sistema de Eduación.

Una escritura, llamamiento campaña, organizar de New Jersey Citizen Action, son responsable en obteniando las resultas en el cambio dentro de presupuesto, y sumar fondo para mas inspectores. Gracias a todos grupos y individuos quien escribro cartas a Concejal de esto caso. Entre los grupos que ayudaron son: Ironbound Communkity Corporation Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Programa, St. Stephan's United Iglesia de Christo, y el Newark HUD Coalición de los Inquilinos.

O Ironbound Vai Receber Mais Lixo De New York

O Departamento de Sanidade da cidade de Nova York acaba de formular um contrato que trará 1700 toneladas de lixo por dia de Manhattan para a incineradora da companhia American Ref-Fuel localizada no Ironbound.

Esta decisão da cidade de Nova York significa que 1000 camiões carregados de lixo entrarão em New Jersey, dos quais aproximadamente 700 virão para Newark. O grupo "Tri-State Transportation Campaign," que defende os interesses dos consumidores, tem-se oposto à decisão da cidade de Nova York, dizendo que a mesma duplicará a quantidade de camiões que actualmente trazem lixo para a incineradora.

O **Comité do Ironbound Contra Produtos Tóxicos (ICATW)** opõe-se à importação de adicional lixo da cidade de Nova York, e requere o encerramento da incineradora.

Entidades municipais tais como o Mayor Sharpe James, e presidentes de Câmaras vizinhas tais como Mayor Schundler, de Jersey City, Mayor Bollwage de Elizabeth, bem como outras figuras políticas, têm manifestado a sua oposição em receber mais lixo de Nova York.

"O Ironbound tem já muitos problemas com incineradora,' affirmou Arnold Cohen do ICATW. "Temos os perigos de acidentes, todos os riscos da poluição feita pela incineradora, e nada recebemos em compensação."

Em Dezembro de 1998 registou-se um incidente na incineradora localizada na Avenida A e 40 pessoas tiveram de receber tratamento hospitalar, quando um pó tóxico se misturou com água que se encontrava no chão, o que deu origem a um incêndio. Tal pó veio de Wisconsin e foi aceite na incineradora sob a designação de "lixo especial".A documentação explicando cuidados a tomar que acompanhava a mercadoria não estava correcta. O Departamento de Incêndios foi informado de que se tratou dum incêndio em lixos. "Os nossos bombeiros poderiam ter morrido," afirmou um representante do sindicato dos bombeiros.

O Condado de Essex despediu 10 dos seus inspectores independentes que costumavam inspeccionar o lixo.

Os queimadores de lixos podem causar sérios problemas de saúde. De acordo com informação pubblicada em 1998 pelos Serviços de Protecção Ambiental dos Estaods Unidos, incineradores municipais são as principais fontes de emissão de dioxinas neste país. Dioxinas estão ligadas a deficiências de aprendizagem, cancro e defeitos de nascimento. De acordo com informação do Fundo de Defesa Ambiental, em 1996 a companhai American Ref-Fuel produziu 1536 toneladas de óxidos nitrogénios.

Embora os regulamentos federais estabeleçam que as emissões das incineradoras devem ser ciudadosamente verificados, o chamado "Federal Clean Air Act" tem muitas falhas, tais como a isenção aos regulamentos, durante períodos de três horas, e nos actos de arranque, paragem, mau funcionamento, etc., o que leva a prolongados periodos de exposição às dioxinas (e outros poluentes) sem consequências para o violador (Centro Para Saúde, Ambiente e Justiça).

Actualmente, só uma terça parte do lixo queimado na incineradora é provenienate do condado de essex. Dois terços vem de fora, algum de outros estados, e até de outros países. (ICATW protestou contra o tamanho exagerado da inceneradora muito antes desta ser construida, e acertadamente previu que teria de importar lixo de outras localidades para poder manter os seus grupos queimadores).

Entretanto, um movimento que se alarga a todo o estado para fazer encerrar as incineradoras, coordenado pela Federação Ambiental de New Jersey, ganha força. NJEF exigiu já a formação dum grupo independente para investigar a operação de incineradoras no estado de New Jersey.

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Aonde É Que As Crianças Do Ironbound Irão Á Escola?

O Board of Education diz que as escolas estão superlotadas, algumas até 200%, e que novas escolas têm que ser construidas, mas aonde irão ser construidas? O desenvolvimento do Ironbound tem sido tão rapido que todos os terrenos desponiveis e sob-utilizados estão a desapercer.

Nos ultimos anos, quase 1,000 residencias novas foram construidas ou approvadas no Ironbound, resultando em aproximadamente 2000 crianças adicionais. Todas as escolas publicas estão superlotadas.

"É terrivel! Há tantos alunos nas aulas que os seus filhos não podem receber a atenção que merecem, seja quanto bom que o professor é," disse Lidia Rossi, uma mâe.

"A situação e pior do que parece, porque as projeções de matriculasão nas escolas, segundo o Board of Education, não inclui a construção de todas as casas particulares," disse a Martha Lamar, uma funcionaria do Ironbound Community Corporaiton que está a analisar o assunto.

"Una communidadenão é apenas casas. Tem que haver boas escolas, igreijas, comercio, y parques para poder ser um lugar aonde pessoas queriam viver a criar as suas familias."

O plano do Board of Education requere que mais duas Middle Schools, e um novo High School, seja construidas no Ironbound. Os conselheiros da junta têm ideias para os locais, mas nada definitivo. O Board of Education têm estado a pedir a Cidade de Newark para locais onde possem construir escolas. Infelizemente, em algumes destes lugares ja existe construção, e outros ja estão á venda ou forão dados a contrutores.

Durante uma reunião com os residents do Newark, o Mayor Sharpe James disse que o problema do encontrar lugar para a construção de escolas é o problema do Governador,' As escolas publicas de Newark estão sob o control do estado de New Jersey. A cidade está a concentrar-se na construção de novas residencias.

"Uma communidade não é apenas casas. Tem que haver boas escolas, igreijas, comercio e parques para poder ser um lugar aonde pessoas queiram viver e criar as suas familias," disse Rev. Weirich, do Lutheran Grace Community.

"Por cada $1.00 investido em novas habitações, as cidades tem que pagar $1.56 para serviços, tais como escolas, prevenção de incendios, proteção policial."

No entanto, a cidade de Newark está aprovando novos mapas para o uso de terreno para o seu grande plano. Estes mapas podem impedir que terreno sejam desenvolvidos, amostrando locais para escolas, centros comunitarios e parques. A cidade não esta a incluir estas nos seus mapas, mesmo depois dos residentes de varias communidades da cidade terem expressado as suas opinões querendo que estas sejam incluidas nos mapas.

"A cidade acha que é mais lucrativo construir habitções, e os desenvolvimento comercial, do que escolas," disse Manuel Lavin, de SPARK. "As pesquisas demostram que por cada $1.00 investido em novas habitaçõs, a cidade tem que pagar $1.56 para serviços, tais como escolas, prevenção de incendios, proteção policial. Pessoas nao irão ficar para criar seus filhos em communidades que não têm escolas boas ou parques.

SPARK tem assistido a reuniões do School Board, Citycouncil e o Planinng Board para ser ouvido sob os assuntos das escolas estarem superlotadas, e o excesso de desenvolvimento na comunidade. SPARK reune quase todas as terças-feiras á noite no Wolff Memorial Presbyterian Church Hall,l Ann St. e Wilson Ave. Todos serão bemvindos.

Lutando Por Liberdade De Expressão Em Newark: Onde Esta A Democracia?

O Senador Ronald Rice introduziu legislação a qual requirirà que todas as cidades permitam que os cidadãos exerçam os seus direitos de se expressarem verbalmente, durante reuniões do conselho municipal. Legislação S1805. Foi apresentada durante reunião do Comitê Urbano do Senado no dia 27 de Setembro de 1999, e foi aprovada. O Senador e Prefeito de Newark Sharp James, votou a favor da introdução. No entanto, agora terà que ser aprovado por toda a Assembléia e assinada pela Governadora.

Desde Setembro de 1997, os residentes de Newark não tinham a direito de se manifestarem durante se reuniões, a não ser as o assunto jà estive na agenda do dia para a Passage Final. A maioria dos residentes não tem acesso a esta agenda. Muitas coisas são acrescidas de ultima hora, o que quer dizer que muitos não sabem o conteudo de tal agenda, no que se refere aos assuntos que irão ser discutidos. A unica oportunidade que tem são durante as reuniões normais nos devidos distritos, as quais não contam com a participação de todas as pessoas membras do conselho munilcipal.Estas não são reuniões oficiais, com direitos a votos.

Vereador Cory Booker, militante dos esforços de reestabelecer o direito de expressão dos cidadaos, tem dito que, "As decisões oficiais, relocação de recursos, bem como outros assuntos desafiadores que enfrenta a cidade de Newark, não deveriam deveria ser tomadas apenas por um pequeno grupo de privilegiados. O certo seria os cidaãos participarem de tais decisões e pudessem se espressarem perante o Corpo Governante da Cidade...e desabafarem os seus sentimentos e preocupações para com o desenvolvimento e progresso de cidade de Newark. Isto està envolvido o futuro da nossa cidade...Assim como foi entendido pelos nossos Fundadores como nação, e inferido na Primeira parte de Constituição dos Estados Unidos de América, Liberdade da Expressão é o alicerce para qualquer comunidade bem sucedida."

Os cidadãos de Newark tambem tem estado ativos em ganhar o direito de se expressarem. Estão circulando um referendum. Quando tiverem assinaturas suficientes de eleitores legais, a cidade terà que colocar o assunto para votação. Esta petição somente poderà ser assinada por pessoas com direitos a votos. Solicite uma petição por ligar para o telefone 643-7711.

Lixo De New York

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"As incineradoras lançam anualmente para a atmosfera milhões de libras de substâncias carcinogénicas, metálicas, gases ácidas e outros poluentes," disse David Pringle, porta-voz do NJEF. "Desperdiçam dinheiro e recursos, enquanto que reciclagem é uma melhor alternativa. O estado de Rhode Island baniu já incineração e a sua média de reciclagem é de 70 por cento."

O condado de Essex está actualmetne a renegociar um novo contrato com a companhia American Ref-Fuel, e residentes de Montclair já se organizaram para lutar contra o mesmo. Juntaram centenas de nomes, participaram e usaram da palavra em reuniões, e publicaram anúncios em jornais da localidade. "Da forma que o contrato está agora redigido, as custas podem triplicar ou duplicar ao fim de dez anos," disse Therese Langer, da Clínica Legal do Ambiente da Universidade Rutgers. "Não quero que paguemos uma taxa se a nossa riclagem aumentar," declarou Robert Russo, membro do Conselho Municipal de Montclair.

O Conselho Municipal de Newark terá também de votar neste contrato. Telefone ao seu membro do Conselho Municipal para saber quando esse voto será efectuado. Para mais informação, e como se envolver nesta causa, contacte Evin Aksay: 589-3353.

Residentes do Ironbound Ganham

Mais uma vez o esforço dos residentes do Ironbound compensou. Os responsáveis camarários decidiram encontrar outro lugar para instalar dois depositos de com capacidade para milhares de galões de gasolina, em vez de ficarem no quartel dos bombeiro na Chestnut St. e Elm Rd. "O sucesso desta campanha mais uma vez prova que se as pessoas não vigiaare, e exigirem ser ouvidas o governo desta cidade, mostra-se sem cessar, incapaz de resolver os problemas dos cidadãos," disse David Schnegelburger, um residente próximo que liderou este protesto. "Estou satisfeito que a Câmara tenha tomado decisões em ter tirado desta area residencial um perigo desta natureza!"

A Câmara decidiu instalar os depósitos de gasolina para abastevcer os carros de bombeiros e os da polícia, dizendo que era ali o único lugar disponivel, de acordo com o artigo publicado pelo Star Ledger no dia 7 de Julho de 1999.

Mas os residentes do Ironbound tiveram outras ideias, distribuindo panfletos fizeram telefonemas, e falaram do problema com os vizinhos. Foram recolhidas centenas de assinaturas pelas crianças do Ironbound Little League que jogam no campo do outro lado da Chestnut St., que também se envolveram apaixonadamente no assunto. David Schnegelberger escreveu cartas a Sharp James e a todos os membros do concelho municipal a explicar a situação. O vereador Amador, Booker e a vereadora Walker responderam manifestando o seu apoio aos residentes.

O grupo de cidadãos do Ironbound Block Watch ofereceram-se para dedicar a reunião do passado dia 5 de Agosto em prol desta causa. O senhor Schnegelberger procedeu à movimentação popular tendo assistido mais de 90 pessoas a esta reunião. O engenheiro da câmara Howard Dlazarus atendeu à reunião como representante da câmara de Newark. Quando o senohr Schnegelberger terminou o seu descurso e perguntou quantas pessoas se opunham à construção das bombas de abastecimento, todos se levantaram - 100%!

"Dizem por al que lutar contra a cidade é tempo perdido, mas eu digo que não , quando se conseguem pessoas suficientes para nos seguir," disse Schnegelberger, um membro activo de SPARK (Save the Park At RiverbanK). "E finalizou por agradecer a colaboração de todos os que, de uma forma ou outra, deram o seu contributo contra a instalação dos depósitos de gasolina numa área residencial como aquela onde vivem."

Cidadães Obtêm Resultados Sobre O Problema Da Poluição Do Chumbo

Graças aos protestos dos cidadãos e das diversas organizações de Newark, o Concelho Municipal decidiu aumentar as verbas do seu orçamento de modo a permitir mais funcionários para inspeccionar as residências habitadas por crianças e analizar o grau de toxicidade causado pelo chumbo. Desde Janeiro de 1999, Newark tinha apensa um inspector para inspeccionar a existência da poluição causada pelo chumbo. Mas Newark é, no Estado de New Jersey, a cidade com maior número de casos de crianças afectadas pelas toxicas do chumbo. A lei estatal impoe que os municípios inspeccionem todas as residências onde vivem crianças para avaliar os níveis de poluição

Newark é uma cidade com cerca de 90,000 residências habitadas. "Obviamente que não é um único inspector que será capaz de inspeccionar 90,000 residências." comentou o Dr. Steve Marcus, Chefe do New Jersey Poison Information and Education System.

A campanha, quer por escrito quer por telefone, organizada pela NJ Citizen Action e outros, conseguiu que o Concelho Municipal alteresse o seu orçamento e aumentasse as verbas para possibiliter um miaor número de inspectores. Foi com os esforços deseuvolvidos pelas organizações e indivíduos que contataram as suas "Councilpersons" focando este problema. Entre as organizações que participaram neste protesto - acção destacam-se a Ironbound Community Corporation's Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies Program, St.Stephan's United Church of Christ, and the Newark HUD Tenants' Coalition. A todos bem haja.

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